



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

M. YAMAMOTO et al.

Serial No. 858,040

Group Art Unit: 153

Filed: May 1, 1986

Examiner: E. NIELSEN

For: POLYMER, PRODUCTION
AND THE THEREOF

AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants respond to the Office Action dated December 10,
1986, with the following Amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claim 2.

Rewrite Claims 1, 4, 8, 9 and 10 as follows:

1. (Amended) A biodegradable high molecular polymer [of]
useful as an excipient in producing a pharmaceutical preparation
comprising a copolymer or homopolymer of about 50-100 mole
percent of lactic acid and about 50-0 mole percent of glycolic
acid [characterized in that] having a weight average molecular
weight of about 2,000 to 50,000 and wherein the content of
water-soluble low molecular compounds, as calculated on the
assumption that each of said compounds [each are] is a monobasic
acid, is less than 0.01 mole per 100 grams of said high molecular
polymer.

3. (Amended) A method of producing a biodegradable high
molecular polymer according to claim 1, which method comprises
removing by extraction of water-soluble low molecular compounds
from a biodegradable high molecular polymer containing not less
than 0.01 mole of water-soluble low molecular compounds per 100
grams thereof, as calculated on the assumption that each of said
compounds [each] is a monobasic acid, using water or a mixture of
water and an organic solvent readily soluble in water.